



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

One Week Left -- Please Help Improve the DHS Daily Infrastructure Report!!

We are striving to improve the DHS Daily Infrastructure Report for all of our readers. Please help us in this effort by filling out a short feedback form, which can be found by clicking on this link:

<http://chrome.osis.gov/questionnaire>

The form will only be available for *one more week*, so please fill it out at your earliest convenience. Your participation is important to us! Thank you.

Daily Highlights

- The National Notary Association reports Arizona will host identity theft prevention symposiums, August 10–11, as part of a nationwide campaign to equip Notaries Public with the tools to detect and deter identity fraud crimes. (See item [13](#))
- News Channel 5 reports police in Putnam County, Tennessee, say they have confiscated tens of thousands of dollars worth of counterfeit money from a growing counterfeit ring. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports a woman has been arrested for attempting to open a United Airlines exit door while the plane was 4,000 feet in the air descending into Seattle. (See item [22](#))
- The Environmental Protection Agency is providing grants for comprehensive training modules to incorporate enhanced security measures into facility design, operation, and management for drinking water and waste water utilities. (See item [33](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *August 05, Associated Press* — **Production stopped at oil field.** Protesting villagers demanding more jobs for their community have forced the Nigerian branch of Total SA to shut down an onshore oil field for a week, company officials and residents said Friday, August 5. Total said it is in talks with local communities to solve the problem and resume output at the Obagi field, which produces 35,000 barrels of oil equivalent and 212 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. Production stopped Monday, August 1. It was the largest stoppage of petroleum production in Nigeria since December last year, when hundreds of protesters forced Chevron Corp. and Shell to stop output of 120,000 barrels per day, helping to boost world oil prices. Nigeria is the world's eighth largest oil exporter and the fifth largest supplier of crude to the U.S.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-France-Total-Nigeria.html?>
2. *August 05, The Courier (AR)* — **No arrests following substation vandalism.** After several acts of vandalism were committed overnight Wednesday, August 3, 2,500 Atkins and Pottsville, AR, residents were left without electricity for nearly an hour. No arrests have been made in connection with the vandalism, according to utility Entergy, Atkins Police and Pope County Sheriff's authorities. Someone allegedly breached the eight-foot fence around the Atkins electrical substation, threw rocks to knock out security lights, broke into a control room and opened a switch on a 160,000-volt transformer, according to Entergy Arkansas Customer Service Manager Bruce Tucker. As a result, 2,500 customers lost power from 2:49 a.m. until Entergy employees fixed the problem at 3:23 p.m. Total value of destroyed property at the substation was estimated at \$850, not including the amount lost in electricity and wages to repair the damage. Tucker said the incident could have easily been fatal to the vandal, or vandals, who caused the problem. Atkins Police and the Pope County Sheriff's Office are investigating the incident.
Source: <http://www.couriernews.com/story.asp?ID=9129>
3. *August 05, Associated Press* — **CNOOC's failed bid a temporary setback.** Chinese oil company CNOOC's failed bid for Unocal Corp. was a painful lesson for Beijing on the potential pitfalls of overseas mergers and acquisitions, but it's unlikely to spoil China's growing appetite for foreign investments — including in the U.S. Hungry for energy and other natural resources and driven by political and commercial imperatives to seek out new markets, advanced technology and brand names, Chinese companies are bound to keep hunting for global investment opportunities, despite the political risks, analysts said. CNOOC, China's third-biggest oil company, indicated it would persist in its strategy of investing overseas. With

the economy growing at an annual rate of more than nine percent, crude oil imports have been soaring. CNOOC and other government-controlled oil companies were among the first Chinese companies to begin actively making big investments abroad, buying up big stakes in oil and gas fields in places such as Indonesia and Iran. The biggest challenge is to reconcile the communist government's desire to retain control of strategic industries and big corporations with the need to assuage foreign worries over state interference in business.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/05/AR2005080500963.html>

4. *August 03, Climate Solutions* — **New report calls for regional smart grid acceleration.** An emerging revolution in electricity holds tremendous potential for the Pacific Northwest economy and environment, a new report concludes. The “smart grid” uses computing technology to dramatically improve reliability, keep electric bills in check, make power use more efficient, and brings new renewable power on line more rapidly, according to the report “Powering Up the Smart Grid: A Northwest Initiative for Job Creation, Energy Security and Clean, Affordable Electricity.” Issued by Olympia, WA-based Climate Solutions, the report calls for a Northwest Smart Energy Initiative to accelerate regional smart grid growth through a program of demonstration projects and regulatory reforms. The smart grid offers new capabilities to bring online varying power flows from wind farms, solar panels and other renewable power sources, and to integrate vast numbers of small scale localized generators, such as fuel cells and microturbines. The diversification of power sources plus the capability to manage end-use demands provides new security against blackouts, according to the report. Report: <http://www.climatesolutions.org/pubs/pdfs/PoweringtheSmart%20Grid.pdf>
Source: <http://www.climatesolutions.org/Poised/PressRelease.pdf>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *August 06, Tucson Citizen (AZ)* — **Hazmat false alarm closes part of interstate in Arizona.** A suspected hazardous corrosive leaked from a tractor-trailer, closing a stretch of Arizona Interstate 10 on the southeast side Friday, August 5, but it turned out to be nonhazardous concrete sealant, authorities said. The sealant blew across the windshields of two vehicles, covering the face of a Jeep's driver with an open window, said Officer James Oien, a state Department of Public Safety spokesperson. Nobody else was injured, he said. The leak inside the truck's trailer spilled out onto the road, closing eastbound I-10 at South Craycroft Road from shortly after 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m., Oien said. Containers holding the sealant tipped over and leaked out of the trailer. Corrosive material was in the truck but did not leak, Oien said. Source: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=local&story_id=0_80605a4_i10closed
6. *August 06, The Journal News (NY)* — **Chlorine spill closes park in New York.** New York's Lake Nanuet Park was shut down Friday, August 5, after at least 700 gallons of chlorine leaked out of a storage tank and seeped into the ground because a containment system failed. Clarkstown, NY, officials said part of the park would remain closed until Monday, August 8, because of the extensive cleanup needed. The park, which reopened Wednesday, July 20, after a torrential downpour flooded the lake earlier in the month, had not yet opened for the day when the leak was detected. Police and emergency service workers from Nanuet, NY, and

Nyack, NY, and both the town and county Hazmat teams responded to the lake and evacuated a baseball camp that was taking place at the park. Clarkstown police Sergeant Harry Baumann said police used reverse-911, which calls homes and businesses to inform them of emergencies, to notify about 90 area families. Baumann said that because the chlorine was still liquid and no gas had formed, it did not pose a threat. However, the park's lifeguard was taken to Nyack Hospital as a precaution. He said police were still investigating how extensive the leak was and if it might have been caused intentionally.

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050806/NEWS03/508060310/1027/NEWS11>

7. *August 06, Ohio News Network* — **Evacuation ordered because of chemical leak in Ohio.**

About 400 homes and businesses within half a mile of the Deltech Corporation plant in Troy, OH, were evacuated early Friday, August 5, because of a leak of the chemical, styrene monomer, fire officials said. No injuries were reported, but some people complained of minor throat irritation, said Scott Gheen, a Troy platoon commander with the fire department. About 150 people were sheltered at a junior high school building after the leak was discovered about 2:30 a.m. Some of the 400 properties evacuated were multiple-unit dwellings, fire platoon commander Matthew Simmons said Friday night. He did not know the total number of people evacuated. People were allowed to return to their homes and businesses about 2 p.m. Friday, August 5, according to Simmons. Fire and health officials reassured people that the chemical did not pose a serious health threat. The cause of the leak was not immediately determined.

Source: <http://www.onnnews.com/Global/story.asp?S=3687085>

8. *August 05, Seattle Post-Intelligencer (WA)* — **Fire breaks out again at Washington plant, closing down highway.**

For the second time this year, fire broke out at Keyes Fiber Corporation in Wenatchee, WA, amid huge stacks of paper fruit-packing trays. The fire, which was reported Thursday morning, August 4, closed state Route 97A, damaged power poles and blanketed Wenatchee with a smoky haze. The plant was evacuated and the power was shut off, and no one was injured, said Fire Chief Randy Johnson of Chelan County, WA, Fire District 1. Bus service was rerouted to Chelan, WA, along the east side of the Columbia River, and people with respiratory ailments were advised to remain indoors. The fire started in an outdoor storage yard on the north side of the plant, although the cause remained unknown, Johnson said. The same yard was the site of a fire January 23 that caused about \$2 million in damage and destroyed about 10 million of the plant's inventory of paper apple trays.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/235437_fire05.html

9. *August 05, Yuma Sun (AZ)* — **Gas line break forces evacuation.**

A ruptured natural gas line at a construction site forced the evacuation of a Yuma, AZ, restaurant Friday, August 5. At 12:32 p.m., a one-inch stub line was punctured during work on a city water line project, according to Southwest Gas risk management manager Ed Scott. The leak was clamped off at 1:19 p.m. About 60 customers and the staff were evacuated from the restaurant. Yuma Fire Department spokesperson Steve Legros said a backhoe that was being used for the construction project cut the line. Legros said the danger with these leaks is the fact that a single spark from someone lighting a cigarette or a vehicle backfiring could ignite a fire. "That's pure natural gas coming out," he said. "It's difficult to ignite pure natural gas, but when it mixes with the air, it becomes an ignitable mixture. A spark could flash back and start a fire," he continued. No customers lost gas service, and all of the permanent repairs had been made Friday, August 5.

Source: http://sun.yumasun.com/artman/publish/articles/story_18254.p hp

10. *August 04, The News–Gazette (IL)* — **Illinois interstate reopens after ethanol spill.** Five people were injured in two crashes in Illinois due to traffic congestion following the rollover of a tanker truck on Interstate 74 on Wednesday, August 3. The tanker truck accident near Mahomet, IL, caused traffic to be diverted for about nine hours. Illinois State Police Sergeant Bill Emery reported that a tanker truck carrying nearly 8,000 gallons of ethanol rolled over on the interstate east of the Prairieview Road exit near Mahomet. The driver of the truck was taken to Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL, and is in fair condition. Both the eastbound and westbound lanes of I–74 were closed between the Prairieview exit and Interstate 57 in Champaign, IL, Emery said. Later in the morning, eastbound traffic was blocked farther west, at the Illinois 47 exit at Mahomet. Eastbound traffic was rerouted onto U.S. 150 and westbound traffic was detoured south on Interstate 57 to Interstate 72, he said. The highway was blocked off as a precaution. Traffic backups on I–74 apparently resulted in two other crashes -- one west of Mahomet involving two motorcycles and a car, and another involving a truck and two cars west of Champaign. The interstate reopened shortly after 6 p.m.

Source: <http://www.newsgazette.com/localnews/story.cfm?Number=18723>

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *August 05, LawandTax–News.com* — **Internal Revenue Service warns against Caribbean phishing scam.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has renewed its warning about an identity theft scheme targeting individuals living in the Caribbean who are receiving U.S.–sourced income. The phishing scheme uses fictitious IRS correspondence and an altered IRS form in an attempt to trick the foreign persons into disclosing their personal and financial data. The information fraudulently obtained is then used to steal the taxpayer's identity and financial assets. In this particular scam, an altered IRS Form W–8BEN, "Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding," is sent with correspondence purportedly from the IRS to non–resident aliens who have invested in U.S. property, such as securities or bonds. As in a similar warning issued in August of last year, the IRS is urging to those situated in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to be particularly vigilant. A similar scam targeting those who may have U.S.–sourced income also surfaced last year in South America and Europe. The IRS says that the real form does not ask for personal financial information, except for, in certain cases, a Social Security or IRS–Generated Taxpayer Identification Number. Moreover, such forms are sent to individuals from financial institutions, and not the IRS itself.

Source: <http://www.lawandtax–news.com/asp/story.asp?storyname=20717>

12. *August 05, NewsFactor* — **U.S. legislation on identity theft criticized by some as unenforceable.** One year ago, President Bush signed into law the Identity Theft Penalty

Enhancement Act in response to the growing proliferation of Internet scams, which prescribes a two-year jail term for anyone convicted of using somebody else's identity in connection with a felony. According to security firm Arcot's President and CEO, Ram Varadarajan, the federal identity theft law is not effective because it only addresses one part of the problem and identity theft can take many forms. Critics of the federal legislation cite its largely unenforceable nature as the primary reason it will not work. The higher penalty is of little value, they say, if the identity thief cannot be caught. These malicious thefts often are committed by faceless criminals who are well hidden and distributed worldwide, said Varadarajan. As such, there is no one single corporate entity that prosecutors can go after. Instead, prosecutors have to chase a trail of false-name fronts and sift through large volumes of data to track individuals who are involved in this kind of crime. The effort required to deliver the level of proof necessary for a conviction is large, burdensome and often beyond the ability of law enforcement teams working with limited budgets.

Source: http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_id=37545

13. *August 04, National Notary Association* — Arizona to host identity theft prevention

symposiums. Arizona, ranked first in the nation in identity theft victims per 100,000 population according to the Federal Trade Commission, will be the site of two symposiums hosted by the National Notary Association on Wednesday, August 10, in Phoenix, AZ, and Thursday, August 11, in Tucson, AZ, as part of a nationwide campaign to equip Notaries Public with the tools to detect and deter identity fraud crimes. Notaries serve as the nation's professional identity screeners for hundreds of sensitive transactions and have a unique opportunity to detect and deter identity fraud. At the Identity Theft Prevention symposiums, Notaries will receive hands-on instruction on recognizing false driver's licenses, detecting forged signatures, preventing identity card fraud and handling suspicious document signers.

Further information on this conference: <http://www.nationalnotary.org/training/>

Source: http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=92464

14. *August 04, Pasadena Star News (CA)* — Hackers infiltrate California university. Computer hackers added California State Polytechnic University–Pomona to a growing list of schools from which personal information has been accessed illegally. Notices went out on Thursday, August 4, to 31,077 people informing them that their records might have been stolen after the university discovered two computer servers were compromised in late June. Personal data, including names and Social Security numbers of university applicants and of current and former faculty, staff and students were accessed in the security breach. The school discovered the breach during routine network monitoring on June 29, which university officials said is likely the day the attack occurred. Systems compromised included student transfer records, a system for scanning in applications and a limited amount of payroll data that did not include financial information. The school is still investigating the incident and has not yet ruled out the possibility it is related to other school hacking incidents.

Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/Stories/0,1413,206~22097~299_6765,00.html

15. *August 04, News Channel 5 (TN)* — Counterfeit bills becoming increasingly common in

Tennessee county. Police in Putnam County, TN, said they are dealing with a growing counterfeit ring. Sheriff's deputies have confiscated tens of thousands of dollars worth of counterfeit money since December. The counterfeits have turned up across the county, at stores, banks, restaurants, gas stations, and at several schools. Several counterfeit bills also turned up

in the county jail after an inmate used them to post bond. Putnam County Sheriff David Andrews said the counterfeits are easy to spot: the color is off, the texture feels different and they don't have security strips. However, they are increasing in number within the county. Deputies were working on the case with the U.S. Secret Service and Cookeville, TN, police. No arrests have been made.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/content/news/13518.asp>

16. *August 03, Bluecase* — **Website launched to help consumers prepare, prevent and recover from identity theft.** Bluecase Software on Thursday, August 4, launched a new Website as a comprehensive first stop for at-risk consumers and victims of identity theft looking for answers. The Website is the first to address identity theft with a solution based on five keys to identity theft protection and recovery: Information, Defense, Credit monitoring, Privacy protection, and Recovery (ID-CPR). ID-CPR.com is continually updated with news, information, commentary and new weapons in the fight against identity theft.

Bluecase identity theft Website: <http://www.id-cpr.com/>

Source: http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20050803005300&newsLang=en

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

17. *August 07, Associated Press* — **At least 13 dead in plane crash off Sicily.** A Tunisian passenger plane carrying 39 people crashed into the Mediterranean Sea on Saturday, August 6, while trying to make an emergency landing in Sicily because of engine trouble. At least 13 people were killed, officials said, and three were missing. Palermo Prosecutor Piero Grasso said 23 survivors were taken off rescue boats on stretchers at the city's port. Some passengers clung to the plane's wings in rough seas while waiting to be rescued, media reports said. Grasso said 13 people were confirmed dead and three were missing. He had reported a toll of 19 earlier Saturday, but he said that was based on overlapping information from rescue groups. Nine survivors were reported in serious condition. At least three crew members survived. Tunisian officials said all the passengers were Italians. Grasso said the twin-propeller plane, an ATR-72, was forced to make the water landing about eight miles off Sicily because of a "technical problem." He ruled out terrorism as the cause.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/06/AR2005080601038.html?sub=AR>

18. *August 06, Associated Press* — **No explosives found on plane in Houston.** A note found in a Southwest Airlines seat pocket claiming a bomb was on the plane prompted a landing and evacuation on an isolated stretch of runway Friday, August 5, but bomb-sniffing dogs found no signs of explosives, authorities said. Investigators interviewed and re-screened the 136 passengers who had been on the flight from Dallas to Houston. Three passengers who saw the note were still being interviewed late Friday, but no one had been taken into custody, FBI spokesperson Al Tribble said. A passenger alerted crewmembers to the note while the plane was in the air, saying it had been found in a seat pocket. No one was injured, and bomb-sniffing dogs found no evidence of explosives on the plane after the search, said Andrea McCauley, spokesperson with the Transportation Security Administration. Hobby Airport,

where the plane landed, is the smaller of Houston's two major airports, handling only domestic flights.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Plane-Threat.htm?pagewanted=all>

19. *August 06, Detroit Free Press (MI)* — **Security reacts after freighter skips check-in.** Two countries, seven federal and local agencies, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and at least one dog reacted when a freighter motored past a checkpoint in Lake Erie on Thursday, August 4. Sailing an Antiguan flag, with a Russian and Lithuanian crew and an American pilot at the wheel, the freighter named Jana failed to radio a standard message to traffic control on the river. Over the next 16 hours, the mystery freighter raised a spectrum of possible worries. The Great Lakes and rivers that make the commercial shipping lanes are tied together through an extensive network of check-in points — physical markers like lighthouses or concrete structures where ships are required to call in their location and destination to Canadian or U.S. marine officials. When the Jana neared another checkpoint, this one on the Detroit River, both U.S. and Canadian officials were monitoring the ship. Only this time, the ship identified itself. Friday, as the Jana entered U.S. waters, it was escorted by the Coast Guard to a dock in Detroit. The Jana was then boarded by U.S. Homeland Security agents, Customs and Border Protection officials, and a border patrol dog trained to sniff out drugs and people.

Source: http://www.freep.com/news/metro/ship6e_20050806.htm

20. *August 06, Associated Press* — **Probe: Half of jet's doors not used.** Investigators trying to determine why an Air France jet skidded off a runway on August 2, said Saturday, August 6, that only four of the aircraft's eight doors and emergency exits were used to escape the burning jetliner, and that two emergency slides malfunctioned. Real Levasseur of Canada's Transportation Safety Board said one of the four exit doors used by the 309 passengers and crew in their rush to disembark was difficult to open, and that the fire after the crash may have prevented access to the other doors. Levasseur also said two of the slides used failed to work, even though they are supposed to automatically unfold when the emergency doors are opened. The discovery confirms comments by many passengers and witnesses who said some of the slides and emergency exits were not functioning, forcing people to jump from as high as four or five yards. Some aviation experts have surmised that the impact of the Airbus A340, which slammed into a ravine, might have damaged the exit doors and chutes. Levasseur said two experts from the U.S. manufacturer of the chutes, Goodrich Corp., and one from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board were on site looking at why the slides and doors failed to work.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/americas/08/06/canada.crash.ap/index.html>

21. *August 05, Associated Press* — **Boston airport, Continental disagree over wireless service.** Logan International Airport is trying to block Continental Airlines from providing free wireless Internet access to its frequent fliers — a service for which the airport charges \$7.95 — calling it a threat to security. The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), which operates Logan, claims Continental's Wireless Fidelity, or "Wi-Fi," service has interfered with other wireless devices, but did not give specifics. Continental rejects the claim and argues Massport cannot legally restrict its use of the technology. The Houston-based airline filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC isn't expected to rule on the dispute before August 29. All 27 of Continental's frequent-flier lounges have offered free Wi-Fi service since last December. But last month, a Massport attorney warned the airline that its

antenna "presents an unacceptable potential risk" to Logan's safety and security systems, including its key-card access system and State Police communications.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-04-airport-wireless_x.htm

22. *August 05, Associated Press* — **Woman tries to open airplane door mid flight.** A woman was arrested Wednesday, August 3, for attempting to open an airplane exit door while the plane was still in the air, police said. The 52-year-old woman from Dania Beach, FL, left her seat and tried to open the door as the United Airlines flight was descending into Seattle to land, police said. The plane was at an altitude of about 4,000 feet at the time. She failed but "did manage to turn the handle far enough that a warning light went on in the cockpit," Seattle-Tacoma International Airport spokesperson Bob Parker told KING-TV. A flight attendant persuaded the woman to sit back down, but nobody physically restrained her. Parker said the other passengers stayed belted in their seats in case she did manage to open the door. The woman was arrested for investigation of malicious mischief when the plane landed. Police were investigating whether alcohol and prescription medication were involved.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-04-plane-door_x.htm

23. *August 05, Associated Press* — **Regional airlines say they'll fly through possible Northwest Airlines strike.** Northwest Airlines' (NWA) two regional partners say they will keep flying a full schedule even if Northwest mechanics strike. That will be easiest for Pinnacle Airlines, which has non-union mechanics. The 120 mechanics at Mesaba Airlines belong to the same union as Northwest's mechanics and cleaners, who can strike at 12:01 a.m. ET on August 20 if they don't reach a deal with the airline. Mesaba does not expect any labor stoppage by its mechanics but it has contingency plans to replace them if necessary, spokesperson Dave Jackson said on Tuesday, August 2. "Northwest has said they plan to fly a full schedule and they will expect us to as well," he said. Pinnacle also intends to operate a full schedule. Eagan, MN-based Mesaba and Memphis, TN-based Pinnacle are separate companies but fly under the Northwest banner and get nearly all their revenue from Northwest. Mesaba and Pinnacle flew a combined 11.7 million passengers for Northwest last year. The two airlines fly mainly between smaller cities and Northwest's hub airports in Memphis, Detroit, and the Twin Cities.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-04-nwa-regionals_x.htm

24. *August 05, GovExec* — **Federal cargo inspection system found wanting.** A system used by the Department of Homeland Security to help inspectors identify high-risk cargo coming into U.S. seaports needs improvement in order to better screen for weapons of mass destruction, according to a new report. In a summary report, the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general found deficiencies in an inspection system used by the Customs and Border Protection Bureau (CBP). Called the Automated Targeting System, it is used by CBP inspectors at domestic and foreign ports to help identify high-risk cargo containers for inspection. About nine million containers arrive annually at U.S. seaports, making it impossible to physically inspect each of them without hampering the flow of commerce. The report made several recommendations, all of which CBP agreed need to be addressed.

Summary report: http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIG_05-26_Jun05.pdf

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0805/080505c1.htm>

25. *August 04, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-860R: Small Business Participation in the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project (Correspondence).** This report

responds to a mandate in the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act (the Pipeline Act) that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study to determine the extent to which small business concerns have participated in the construction of oil and gas pipelines. The Pipeline Act includes a “sense of Congress” provision that the sponsors of the Alaska natural gas pipeline should maximize the participation of small business concerns in contracts and subcontracts awarded for the project. This report describes (1) the status of the Alaska natural gas pipeline project and (2) the extent to which any regulatory or oversight structure is in place to monitor small business participation in the construction of the pipeline. Given the lengthy steps required for state and federal approval of the project, the earliest that construction can begin on the Alaska natural gas pipeline is late 2009. No structure exists at the federal or state level to monitor small business participation in the construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline. Although the pipeline will be privately funded, the project sponsors must apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a certificate authorizing construction of the pipeline and to the Department of Energy if they wish to participate in \$18 billion in loan guarantees authorized by the Pipeline Act.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-860R>

- 26. *July 26, Government Accountability Office — GAO-05-727: Intermodal Transportation: Potential Strategies Would Redefine Federal Role in Developing Airport Intermodal Capabilities (Report).*** With the number of airplane passengers using U.S. airports expected to grow to almost one billion by the year 2015, ground access to U.S. airports has become an important factor in the development of our nation's transportation networks. Increases in the number of passengers traveling to and from airports will place greater strains on our nation's airport access roads and airport capacity, which can have a number of negative economic and social effects. U.S. transportation policy has generally addressed these negative economic and social effects from the standpoint of individual transportation modes and local government involvement. However, European transportation policy is increasingly focusing on intermodal transportation as a possible means to address congestion without sacrificing economic growth. This report addresses the development of intermodal capabilities at U.S. airports, including (1) the roles of different levels of government and the private sector; (2) the extent such facilities have been developed; (3) benefits, costs, and barriers to such development; and (4) strategies to improve these capabilities. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) provided a draft of this report to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Amtrak. DOT generally concurred with the report, and Amtrak had no comments.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05727high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-727>

- 27. *July 26, Government Accountability Office — GAO-05-738SP: Survey of Large- and Medium-Hub Airports on Existing and Planned Bus and Rail Connections (Special Publication).*** This document presents the results of the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) survey of airport directors. The purpose of the survey was to determine the extent to which intermodal services and facilities have been developed at major U.S. airports. GAO developed the Web-based questionnaire and administered the survey to 72 airports from the 2003 Federal Aviation Administration's Air Carrier Activity Information System database. These airports accounted for approximately 90 percent of the enplanements for calendar year 2003, and consist of all 33 large hub, all 35 medium hub, and the four small hub airports that are located in the same metropolitan area as a large or medium hub airport. GAO asked airport

officials about the local and nationwide bus and rail systems that are accessible to their airports by regular, fixed-route shuttle service, an automated people mover and/or walking. We also asked the airports if their capital improvement plan included proposals to enhance the airport's connections to local and nationwide transportation systems. We received responses from all 72 airports, resulting in a 100 percent response rate. A more detailed discussion of our scope and methodology is available in the report, "Intermodal Transportation: Potential Strategies Would Redefine Federal Role in Developing Airport Intermodal Capabilities."

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?rptno=GAO-05-727>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/special.pubs/gao-05-738sp/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *August 04, Dow Jones/Associated Press* — **Refinery halt has California diesel prices sky high, affecting truckers.** Diesel prices hit all-time high Wednesday, August 3, in Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego and San Bernardino, according to the Automobile Club of Southern California. The state average is at \$2.76, with San Francisco ahead of the curve at \$2.83. Marketers near Bakersfield have said prices there are nearing \$3 a gallon. "In some of these areas, the price is about three cents higher than it was yesterday," said Paul Gonzales of the organization, which is the largest affiliate of AAA. Although diesel prices have been consistently strong throughout the summer, the latest rise is attributed to the shutdown of a 200,000-barrel a day crude processing unit at Chevron Corp.'s El Segundo refinery. A July 20 fire damaged the unit, which Chevron says won't be back on line for another week. The diesel shortage will affect truckers moving goods imported through California and agricultural produce from the state. The high prices cluster around the port of Los Angeles, the busiest port in the United States and a key entry point for Asian goods.

Source: http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/business/energy/329_6729

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

29. *August 06, Associated Press* — **Disease changes rules for bringing livestock into Tennessee.** The Tennessee Department of Agriculture announced emergency rules Friday, August 5, to protect the state's livestock from a contagious disease already reported in five states. The rules restrict importing hoofed animals, such as cattle and horses, from areas near confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis. The rules ban importing hoofed animals from an area within 10 miles of a confirmed case of the disease. Animals from within 100 miles of an outbreak must be certified healthy by a veterinarian, have tested negative for the infection within 10 days of shipment, get an entry permit, and be quarantined for 14 days after they arrive in Tennessee and then be inspected again by a veterinarian. Cases of the disease have been reported this year in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease primarily affecting cattle, horses, and swine and occasionally sheep and goats. Its symptoms are similar to foot and mouth disease, including blister-like lesions in the mouth, nostrils, and hooves.

Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2005080>

30. *August 04, Agriculture Online* — Glyphosate resistant marestalk found in California.

University of California (UC) researchers have identified marestalk, also known as horseweed, able to withstand four times the labeled rate of glyphosate in a research center near Fresno. This is the first confirmation of the resistant weed in California. "The location where this population was identified had been treated intensively with glyphosate for 15 years, with three or four applications a year. In just the last five years, we've seen the population of marestalk in the San Joaquin Valley increase tenfold," said Kurt Hembree, who helped to identify the resistant population. The weed is common especially between the rows in orchards and vineyards. "The irrigation district was using glyphosate year after year," said UC weed ecologist Anil Shrestha. "This continuous use was, in effect, selecting for horseweed that was resistant to the chemical." The scientists collected horseweed seed from the Dinuba site to compare with horseweed seed collected in western Fresno where glyphosate was seldom used. The weed seeds were planted in pots in a greenhouse and treated with three rates of glyphosate at five different growth stages. The weeds from west Fresno died when exposed to the herbicide. The plants from Dinuba grew even when sprayed with four times the recommended amount of glyphosate. Hembree and Shrestha say they believe glyphosate-resistant horseweed may exist in other areas.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/agNews_050804crMARESTAIL.xml&catref=ag1001

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

31. *August 05, AgProfessional* — ConAgra to sell its remaining shares in Pilgrim's Pride.

ConAgra Foods Inc. has entered into an agreement to sell all of its remaining 15.4 million shares of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation to that company for an estimated \$482 million before tax. The transaction is conditioned upon Pilgrim's Pride's recently announced underwritten public offering, which is expected to occur on August 9, 2005. ConAgra Foods sold its chicken processing operations to Pilgrim's Pride Corporation in the fall of 2003 for \$300 million in cash and 25.4 million of Pilgrim's Pride shares. ConAgra Foods began liquidating the Pilgrim's Pride shares in December 2004, when it sold 10 million shares. After these 15.4 million shares have been sold, ConAgra Foods will have fully divested from these chicken processing operations.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=34474

32. *August 04, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — Philippines lifts ban on U.S. beef and beef products.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns Thursday, August 4, announced that the Philippines will resume imports of U.S. beef and beef products. Under the agreement, the U.S. will now be able to export boneless beef from cattle not older than 30 months to the Philippines. The estimated value of the Philippines market reopening to U.S. boneless beef is \$2.5 million. In 2003, the U.S. exported \$4.9 million worth of beef and beef products to the Philippines. After the December 2003 discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in the U.S., the Philippines adopted measures to restrict imports of certain types of U.S. beef, while allowing imports of U.S. boneless beef from cattle not older than 30 months with its memorandum order in January 2004. In June 2005, the Philippines imposed a temporary ban on beef and beef products from the U.S. following confirmation that a second U.S. cow had tested

positive for mad cow.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2005/08/0295.xml

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

- 33. *August 03, Environmental Protection Agency* — Security training modules for water utilities now available.** Through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, drinking water and wastewater utilities now have comprehensive training modules to incorporate enhanced security measures into facility design, operation and management. These modules are based on the three recently released interim voluntary security guidance documents developed by the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Federation, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The training modules provide a tool to inform managers, operations personnel, design professionals, and regulatory officials involved in drinking water, waste water and stormwater utilities with detailed practical assistance for implementing improved security measures in new and existing facilities of all sizes.

Guidance documents: <http://www.asce.org/static/1/wise.cfm>

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/water/waternews/waternews.html#2>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

- 34. *August 07, New York Times* — Avian flu vaccine called effective in human testing.**

Government scientists say they have successfully tested in people a vaccine that they believe can protect against the strain of avian influenza that is spreading in birds through Asia and Russia. Health officials have been racing to develop a vaccine because they worry that if that strain mutated and combined with a human influenza virus to create a new virus, it could spread rapidly through the world. The director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci, said that although the vaccine that had undergone preliminary tests could be used on an emergency basis if a pandemic developed, it would still be several months before that vaccine was tested further and, if licensed, offered to the public. But he cautioned, "We don't have all the vaccine we need to meet the possible demand. The critical issue now is, can we make enough vaccine, given the well-known inability of the vaccine industry to make enough vaccine?" In interviews over recent days, Fauci has said that tests so far had shown that the new vaccine produced a strong immune response among the small group of healthy adults under age 65 who volunteered to receive it, although the doses needed were higher than in the standard influenza vaccine.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/07/health/07vaccine.html>

- 35. *August 07, Boston Globe (MA)* — Old vaccine raises hopes of eradicating polio.** Global health officials believe they have made a breakthrough and can eradicate polio in the next 18 months. As recently as nine months ago, officials had grown pessimistic about halting the spread of the virus, especially as it moved from northern Nigeria to cripple children throughout

West Africa and beyond. But officials were also concerned that the polio virus was proving hard to eradicate in other areas as well, where high percentages of children had been vaccinated. When a group of technical specialists convened last year in Switzerland, they decided to reach back in time to the 1950s, when Albert B. Sabin had invented three separate oral vaccines to combat the three types of polio. They decided to manufacture one of Sabin's vaccines that gives children high levels of immunity to polio type one. Since 1963, countries have used an oral vaccine that combines Sabin's three vaccines into one. But the level of protection in the combination vaccine was not as great as that in the monovalent immunization. In May, Egypt and India began administering tens of millions of drops of the monovalent vaccine. Early this summer, volunteers delivered the vaccine in Somalia and Yemen. Egypt and Somalia have registered no new cases, and India and Yemen have experienced a reduction. Source: http://www.boston.com/news/world/africa/articles/2005/08/07/rising_hopes_in_campaign_to_rid_world_of_polio/

36. *August 06, Associated Press* — **Attack modeling to be done in New York City.** Government scientists will release colorless, harmless gases in subways, an office building, and some of Manhattan's most crowded streets to see which way the wind blows them. Ultimately scientists hope they can produce a computerized model of air flow patterns that could help authorities decide where to evacuate people and in which direction after a bioterrorist attack. On six days over the next three weeks, depending on the weather, 180 blue plastic tracer boxes will track the path of gases released at eight different locations. A half-dozen vans will also be traveling the city collecting air samples. The tracer boxes will be fastened to light poles, rooftops, and eight of the boxes will be stationed for six hours at other subway platforms throughout the city, watched by interns, Allwine said. And about 50 of the interns in all will be taking air samples from smaller versions of the boxes they can clip to their belts. Some will walk the area covered by the study, while still others will ride the subways to track the path of gases released above ground into the system. Source: http://www.wired.com/news/privacy/0,1848,68457,00.html?tw=wn_tophead_3

37. *August 06, Associated Press* — **Second infant dies of whooping cough in South Carolina.** Two South Carolina infants have died of whooping cough — the first deaths reported from the disease in the state in nearly three years. Officials with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control confirmed Thursday, August 4, that an infant in the Upstate died of the disease. An infant from the Midlands died last week at the Medical University of South Carolina. Whooping cough, or pertussis, is a highly contagious bacterial infection spread through respiratory droplets. About 40 percent of infections happen in children who are less than one year old. Whooping cough was a leading cause of death in children 14 and younger before the advent of vaccinations in the 1940s, said Robin LaCroix, medical director of pediatric infectious disease at Greenville, SC, Hospital Systems Children's Hospital. In South Carolina, there were 207 cases in 2003, compared with 48 in 2002 and 34 in 2001. Nationwide, almost 20,000 cases were reported in 2004 compared with about 10,000 in 2003. Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/local/12318399.htm>

38. *August 05, Associated Press* — **World Health Organization recommends more pig disease tests.** The World Health Organization (WHO) urged China on Friday, August 5, to conduct more tests on a pig-borne disease that has killed 38 people in the country's southwest. Roy Wadia, a WHO spokesperson in Beijing, said China had been giving the organization updates

from Sichuan province on the disease blamed on the *Streptococcus suis* bacteria. But more tests were needed to "eliminate other possible scenarios," he said. Some 208 people have become ill in dozens of villages and towns in Sichuan province since June, mostly farmers who butchered or handled sick pigs. Fifteen remain in critical condition. No person-to-person infections have been reported. International experts on *Streptococcus suis* have also raised concerns about China's outbreak, saying it is highly unusual for so many people to fall sick and die suddenly from the disease. They recommend the strain be sent to another lab for testing. Chinese health officials say that the strain is extremely virulent and killed one farmer in as little as two hours. But they have assured the public the disease was under control.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/05/AR2005080500263.html>

39. *August 05, BBC News* — **Scientists are making a vaccine that could give lifelong protection against all types of flu.** Currently, at risk people — the elderly and ill — need annual flu shots. Biotechnology firm Acambis says it hopes its vaccine will target numerous mutations that presently allow flu to evade attack. However, the work is very early and is years off being tested in humans. Current flu vaccines work by giving immunity to two proteins called haemagglutinin and neuraminidase, which are found on the surface of flu viruses. However, these proteins keep mutating which means doctors have to keep making new vaccines to keep up. Scientists at Acambis' laboratory in the U.S., together with Belgian researchers at Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology, are focusing their efforts on a different protein, called M2, which does not mutate. If successful, a single shot of the vaccine could protect a person against all strains of influenza virus, they believe. Thomas Monath, chief scientific officer at Acambis, said: "We aim to avoid the need for annual re-engineering and manufacture of the new product, something that is not yet possible with existing vaccines. "The need to develop a new vaccine each time a different influenza strain emerges often results in long delays before a population can be protected." So far the vaccine has only been tested in animals. Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4747909.stm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

40. *August 04, Government Technology* — **Governors seek solution to Real ID.** Governors remain committed to increasing the security and integrity of driver's licenses and state identification cards, according to a release on Thursday, August 4, from the National Governors' Association. Still, the Real ID Act contains unreasonable burdens and unfunded mandates that are unworkable and counterproductive to its goals, said the group. Also, it is unclear whether the 227 million drivers licenses and ID cards already issued will need to be re-issued in the next three years and what the costs associated with that would be, including higher license fees for citizens. During the National Governors Association's annual meeting in Des Moines earlier this month, governors discussed the implications of the Real ID Act with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and encouraged him to draw on the expertise and perspective of governors in creating mutually agreed-upon, meaningful regulations for the issuance of these documents. Governors also are asking Congress to fund the changes required in the Real ID Act and to work with states so they can meet the goals of increased security and reliability. The importance of driver's licenses and ID cards is not in question; states have been

issuing them for decades and governors recognize they are the most acceptable form of identification.

Real ID Act: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h418rfs.txt.pdf

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=96169>

41. *August 01, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS announces Postdoctoral Associateship Program.** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology directorate announced it is seeking applications for up to 10 Postdoctoral Associates to conduct mission-focused research at DHS-affiliated venues including DHS Centers of Excellence, DHS laboratories, and homeland security activities at Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratories. The DHS Postdoctoral Associateship program is designed to provide support to doctoral scientists and engineers of unusual promise or proven achievement who will be given an opportunity to conduct research on challenges which are part of the mission of DHS. Postdoctoral Associateship awards will be made to doctoral level scientists and engineers, within five years of their doctorate, in nationally competitive evaluations held four times each year.

For more information about the DHS Postdoctoral Associateship Program or to apply, visit http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0555.xml

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4707>

[[Return to top](#)]

Emergency Services Sector

42. *August 06, The Ledger (FL)* — **Class will train for disaster situation.** In Polk City, FL, a group of volunteers enrolled in the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) are scheduled to survive a simulated situation involving an airplane crash. The CERT classes are designed to give ordinary residents the necessary skills and knowledge to react and control the situation for a period of 72 hours following a disaster. To make the aircraft accident drill possible, people of all ages are being sought to play the roles of victims within the next nine weeks, Polk County fire inspector and CERT coordinator Jack Williams said. The drill circumstances are not known yet, but officials from throughout the state are expected to join the group, Williams said. Before the volunteers receive a certificate of completion, they must demonstrate the skills they learn in training during the drill, Williams said. Some of the skills residents are expected to learn through training are triage victim assistance, light search and rescue, putting together a command post and a small medical treatment center, and managing a water and ice distribution center, among other things, Williams said.

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050806/NEWS/508060395/1004>

43. *August 05, Internet Broadcasting Systems and Local6.com* — **Network of sonar sensors to provide tsunami warnings for 27 countries.** A network of sonar sensors able to instantly transmit data from the Indian Ocean floor to tsunami warning centers in 27 countries could be in place within a year, international experts said on Friday, August 5. About 100 representatives of the 27 Indian Ocean countries at risk from tsunamis met in the Australia's west coast city of Perth last week to discuss plans for an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system. The warning

system would minimize the potential for another disaster on the scale of the December 26 earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 170,000 people, according to experts. UNESCO is establishing the system through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG), and is on track to finish it by mid-2006. When an earthquake triggers a tsunami, seabed sensors will be able to transmit information to sea level buoys and then via satellite to warning centers in the countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/4814302/detail.html>

44. *August 05, Salem Times Commoner (IL)* — **Police officers undergo SWAT training for regional alarm system.** Local police officers are banding with officers from other southern Illinois counties for the formation of a special response team for the southern Illinois region of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). Training was conducted last week in Salem, with a total of 22 officers from various counties taking part. The training primarily focused on preparing the officers to be a Weapons of Mass Destruction Response Team for the region, which would spring into action in the event of a terrorist-related emergency. However, the training also provides the local area with SWAT-trained officers who could be used for other purposes, such as executing high-risk warrants associated with methamphetamine activity. During the first few days of the training, the officers were in the classroom, learning the specifics of SWAT training. On Wednesday, they were able to put their training into action during a drill held at Salem Mobile Home Park. The team was given a scenario—a terrorist cell has targeted a local site for suicide bomber attacks—and the response team executed a no-knock warrant at the hideouts for the terrorists. Organizers expressed satisfaction with how the drill went.

Source: http://www.salem-tc.com/news/2005/0805/Front_Page/001.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

45. *August 06, Washington Post* — **Ruling gives phone firms power over Internet access.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruled Friday, August 5, that big telephone companies no longer have to lease their high-speed Internet lines to competitors, giving the companies more power over the delivery of popular fast Internet services. The new policy raises the possibility that small Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that do not have their own networks could ultimately lose use of digital subscriber lines (DSL) or have to pay the telephone companies more to keep offering broadband Web access. Combined with a recent Supreme Court decision that freed cable TV companies from having to share their networks with Internet service providers, the FCC policy completes a rapid change in rules that have so far created a wide-open market with ever-shrinking prices for broadband services. The panel agreed to delay imposing the rule for a year to lessen the impact on providers and their customers. There is lively competition among providers to lure customers with introductory broadband offers as low as \$14.95 a month. But critics say that if big cable and telephone companies are the only broadband players, they could raise prices over time.

FCC Press Release: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-260433_A1.pdf

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/05/AR2005080500929.html>

46. *August 04, Techweb* — **New trend found in IM enterprise threats.** Nearly a quarter more new viruses threatening corporate computers through employee use of public instant-messaging networks were discovered last month, including one that reflected a new trend of attacking multiple IM systems, a security firm said. A total of 42 new threats were tracked in July, a 24 percent increase over the previous month, San Diego-based Akonix Systems said. July had the second highest number of new threats seen by Akonix since the beginning of the year. The highest was in April, when 48 were found. Five new viruses were discovered in July, including Rants, Prex, Kirvo, Hagbard and Lamar. The Akonix Security Center also found new variants of previous malware, including Kelvir, Bropia, Opanki and Oscabot. Of particular concern was the Rants virus, which was found on two different IM networks, David Jaros, director of product marketing for Akonix, said. In April, Akonix started seeing the same virus written for separate networks, such as AIM from America Online and Yahoo Messenger. Since then, the security firm has seen several multi-network viruses. "The virus writers are no longer focusing on one network," Jaros said. "They're broadening the number of users as potential targets."
Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/167101004>
47. *August 04, ZDNet* — **Worms could dodge Net traps.** In a pair of papers presented at the Usenix Security Symposium in Baltimore, MD, Thursday, August 4, computer scientists said would-be attackers can locate such sensors, which act as trip wires that detect unusual activity. Internet sensor networks are groups of machines that monitor traffic across active networks and chunks of unused IP space. The sensor networks generate and publish statistical reports that permit an analyst to track the traffic, sniff out malicious activity and seek ways to combat it. The locations of the Internet sensors are kept secret. In a paper titled "Mapping Internet Sensors with Probe Response Attacks," a team of computer scientists from the University of Wisconsin discovered that the sensor maps furnish just enough information for someone to create an algorithm that can map the location of the sensors. All an attacker would have to do is throw packets of information at IP addresses and then check to see whether the activity showed up on the sensor reports. Researchers from Japan came to a similar conclusion in a paper titled "Vulnerabilities of Passive Internet Threat Monitors." The threat could be diminished, both studies said, if the information in the networks' public reports was less detailed.
Source: http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1009_22-5819293.html
48. *August 03, FrSIRT* — **Oracle for Openview (OfO) multiple security vulnerabilities.** Multiple vulnerabilities were identified in Oracle for Openview (OfO), which could be exploited by remote or local attackers to execute arbitrary commands or conduct SQL injection attacks. These flaws, initially reported in Oracle Critical Patch Update (July 2005), could be exploited by remote or local attackers to cause a denial of service, execute arbitrary commands or conduct SQL injection attacks.
OfO customers who have support contracts directly from Oracle should obtain the Critical Patch Update (July 2005) from Oracle:
<http://www.oracle.com/technology/deploy/security/pdf/cpujul2.005.html>
OfO customers who have support from Hewlett-Packard should contact the normal support channel to obtain the Critical Patch Update (July 2005):
http://www.hp.com/managementsoftware/contract_maint
Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1316>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has observed limited hostile activity and has received few reports of hostile activity in the last 24 hours. However, quite a few new exploits for known vulnerabilities have surfaced in the same time frame. This may be the calm before the storm as the script kiddies pick up and begin to deploy the new exploits. Microsoft Anti-Spyware Beta expired 31 July 2005. If you were running it, check your System Tray. You will probably find the Icon is gone. Microsoft says you should go to Microsoft and get a later copy (No URL provided). US-CERT checked the Microsoft Downloads page and found the new MS Antispyware Beta at the following URL:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=321cd7a2-6a57-4c57-a8bd-dbf62eda9671&displaylang=en>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 53 (domain), 4672 (eMule), 25 (smtp), 32772 (sometimes-rpc7), 1434 (ms-sql-m) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	---

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

- 49. August 07, Washington Post — Terrorists turn to the Web as base of operations.** Al Qaeda suicide bombers and ambush units in Iraq routinely depend on the Web for training and tactical support, relying on the Internet's anonymity and flexibility to operate with near impunity in cyberspace. In Qatar, Egypt and Europe, cells affiliated with al Qaeda that have recently carried out or seriously planned bombings have relied heavily on the Internet. Among other things, al Qaeda and its offshoots are building a massive and dynamic online library of training materials — some supported by experts who answer questions on message boards or in chat rooms — covering such varied subjects as how to mix ricin poison, how to make a bomb from

commercial chemicals, how to pose as a fisherman and sneak through Syria into Iraq, how to shoot at a U.S. soldier, and how to navigate by the stars while running through a night–shrouded desert. Jihadists seek to overcome in cyberspace specific obstacles they face from armies and police forces in the physical world. In planning attacks, radical operatives are often at risk when they congregate at a mosque or cross a border with false documents. They are safer working on the Web.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/05/AR2005080501138.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non–commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.